

Message Text

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12

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-07 NSC-07 SPC-03 SS-20 RSC-01

CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 L-03 AID-20 IGA-02 TRSE-00

EB-11 MC-02 ACDA-19 EUR-25 DRC-01 /144 W

----- 035205

R 311422Z MAR 74

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6583

INFO USMTM DHAHRAN

USCINCEUR

SECDEF WASHDC

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 1637

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SA

SUBJECT: SAUDI REQUEST FOR EQUIPMENT

REF: (A) JIDDA 917 (B) STATE 41600 (C) JIDDA 1032

1. (C) REF A FORWARDED SAG REQUEST TO PURCHASE 70 TRACKED ARMORED PERSONNEL CARRIERS AND ONE BATTALION TOW MISSILES. SAG REQUESTED FIRM LETTER OF OFFER BY 10 MARCH. REALIZE DOD UNABLE PREPARE L/O ON SUCH SHORT NOTICE, BUT CAN SOME INDICATION BE SUPPLIED WHETHER USG WILLING SELL THIS EQUIPMENT AND IF SO WHEN L/O MIGHT BE FORTHCOMING?

2. (C) BRITISH DEFENSE ATTACHE STATES HE AS WELL AS FRENCH (PARA 3 REF A) RECEIVED SIMILAR REQUEST. BRITISH FEEL THEIR SCORPION FAMILY OF TRACKED ARMORED VEHICLES DOES NOT FILL BILL SO PROBABLY HMG WILL DECLINE OF OFFER APC'S. BRITISH PLAN TO OFFER SWINGFIRE AS REQUESTED IN SAG LETTER TO THEM. (UK DETERMINED FROM BAA THAT 36 LAUNCHERS DESIRED.)

3. (C) PLACING THIS REQUEST IN PERSPECTIVE, WE BELIEVE SAG FEELS NEED TO PROVIDE SIGNIFICANT IMPROVEMENT TO SAUDI
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FORCES STATIONED IN SYRIA. WE HAVE HEARD RUMORS THAT TINY

PANHARD ARMORED CARS WERE LAUGHED AT WITH SOME CHIDING FROM OTHER ARABS TO EFFECT "ARE THESE TOYS BEST MOST WEALTHY ARAB NATION CAN SEND TO BATTLE FIELD?" BELIEVE SAG INTENDS THIS PURCHASE AS STOP GAP MEASURE AND WILL PURCHASE FROM WHATEVER SOURCE RESPONDS QUICKEST WITH REASONABLE PRICE AND SHORTEST LEAD TIME ON DELIVERY. THIS ORDER PROBABLY HAS NO CONNECTION WITH ANY LONG-RANGE MODERNIZATION PLANS, BUT MIGHT WELL INFLUENCE DIRECTION SAG WOULD LOOK FOR MAJOR PURCHASES OF ARMORED EQUIPMENT IN FUTURE IF SUPPLIER IS RESPONSIVE TODAY AND EQUIPMENT IS SATISFACTORY.

4. (U) PLEASE ADVISE STATUS SAG REQUEST.
HORAN

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NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: MILITARY SALES, TRACKED VEHICLES, ANTITANK WEAPONS, MILITARY VEHICLES, MISSILES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 31 MAR 1974
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: GolinoFR
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974JIDDA01637
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740071-0402
From: JIDDA
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t1974031/aaaaaacq.tel
Line Count: 74
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: (A) JIDDA 917 (B) STATE 41600 (C) JI, DDA 1032
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: GolinoFR
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 23 AUG 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <23 AUG 2002 by WorrelSW>; APPROVED <27 JAN 2003 by GolinoFR>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: SAUDI REQUEST FOR EQUIPMENT
TAGS: MASS, SA
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005